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LETTER DATED 8 OCTOBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of the Republic of Iraq's airspace by United States, British and French aircraft continued over the period from 16 to 30 September 1996 and that those aircraft carried out reconnaissance and engaged in acts of provocation. The details are as set forth in the annex to this letter.

You are requested to intervene with the countries in question with a view to bringing a halt to actions which, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Iraq.

These actions continue to alarm the civilian population and to cause material damage to private and public property. The Republic of Iraq asserts its right to seek legal compensation for the losses being inflicted on the Iraqi people and the Republic of Iraq in consequence of these actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

1. In the northern region 104 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Mosul, Irbil, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Zakho, Rawandoz, Sinjar and Ayn Zalah.

2. In the southern region 784 sorties were flown at speeds of 600 to 900 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 9,000 metres, over the following Iraqi cities and towns: Nasiriyah, Samawah, Basra, Qurnah, Artawi, Chabaish, Jalibah, Salman, Shatrah, Razzazah, Lasaf, Najaf, Qal'at Salih, Shinafiyah, Nu'maniyah, Ali al-Sharqi, Busayyah, Janub Razzazah, Rumaythah and Amarah.

3. On 15 occasions United States TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft flying at a speed of 600 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 20,000 metres violated the Republic of Iraq's airspace in the southern region before leaving in the direction of Kuwait.